

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04031 241246Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119264 241255Z /50

O 241225Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2148
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4031

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR IS MOPS LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: WEIZMAN ON WITHDRAWAL

REF.: DAMASCUS 1649

1. ENCOUNTERED WEIZMAN AT AIRPORT THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 24)
AT BEGIN RETURN CEREMONY AND AGAIN PRESSED HIM ON IDF
WITHDRAWAL PLANS. HE SAID GENERAL GUR WAS MEETING WITH
SIILASVUO AT 1600 HOURS TODAY TO DISCUSS MATTER. TOLD HIM
SIILASVUO TRIP TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW WOULD LIKELY BEAR MORE
FRUIT IN TERMS OF CONSTRUCTIVE SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD
PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON IF HE HAD A WITHDRAWAL TIME TABLE
IN HIS POCKET. WEIZMAN SAID HE WOULD REAFFIRM
TO GUR IMPORTANCE OF MAKING AVAILABLE TO SIILASVUO
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DETAILED WITHDRAWAL PLANS. HE REMINDED ME AGAIN,
HOWEVER, THAT IDF WITHDRAWAL WAS IN PART CONTINGENT
ON INSERTION OF UNIFIL UNITS.

2. I URGED WEIZMAN TO ACCELERATE PACE OF WITHDRAWAL
WHEREVER POSSIBLE PENDING INSERTION OF UNIFIL UNITS.
SAID I THOUGHT THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN AS PUBLIC FASHION

AS SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS PERMITTED. WEIZMAN DID NOT
KNOW HOW MANY TROOPS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN SINCE CEASE FIRE
AND CALLED GUR OVER TO ASK. GUR ESTIMATED ABOUT ONE THIRD
OF TOTAL FORCES COMMITTED TO OPERATION WERE NOW BACK IN
ISRAEL. (BASED ON THIS, OUR BEST ESTIMATE WOULD BE THAT
1800-2,000 MEN HAVE BEEN PULLED BACK.) I TOLD
WEIZMAN I THOUGHT HE WAS MISSING A BET IN NOT PUBLICIZING
THIS FACT. TOLD HIM IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY BENEFICIAL
SIGNAL TO SEND TO SYRIANS. HE SAID THIS HAD NOT OCCURRED
TO HIM AND HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ORDER PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT
TO BE MADE. VIETS

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Message Attributes

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